

trap, the wall of the house and adjacent vegetation. This is an arable district and other grass-feeding species such as *M. impura* (Hübner) are relatively uncommon. If recorders in other parts of the country encountered a similar influx of *M. pallens* on the same night, immigration will have been the most likely cause. — A.M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AF.

Wing function in the brachypterous female of *Diurnea fagella* (D. & S.) (Lep.: Oecophoridae)

The males of both British species of *Diurnea* i.e. *D. fagella* (D. & S.) and *D. phryganella* (Hübner) are fully alate and fly vigorously especially at night. The females of both species are brachypterous, the foreshortened wings are held over the abdomen and are just about body length. Neither is known to fly and examination of wing surface area to body mass confirms my belief that neither could fly. However, I have observed on four separate occasions, the effects of disturbance on females of *D. fagella* at rest on trunks of trees. On each occasion the dislodged moth went into a controlled slow drop similar to a parachute drop with one important difference; this being that the slow descent was not vertical, sometimes achieving 75 degrees in dead calm air conditions. Closer observations demonstrated that the wings are outstretched on each occasion. The moth sometimes managed to grab onto a basal buttress projecting from the tree, thereby saving a longer walk back up. It would not however be strictly accurate to describe this as true gliding. — Dr M.W. HARPER, Bullen, Cherry Orchard, Ledbury, Hereford.

***Maruca testulalis* Geyer (Lep.: Pyralidae) in Kent**

A specimen of this moth was attracted to my garden m.v. light 6.viii.1989; perhaps this the fourth feral imago to have been noted for the British Isles, and the first for Kent. Bretherton and Chalmers-Hunt (*Ent. Rec.* 96: 149) observe that the capture of two specimens in 1983, one in Cornwall and the other in Surrey, coincided with an immigration of rare species suggesting that *testulalis* might occur as an immigrant, and not only as an artificial introduction as was previously supposed. The date of the Dartford specimen coincided with a similar period of immigration; the same light attracted a fine pale grey male *Eurois occulta* L. on July 27th for example, suggesting that this *testulalis* was not merely an escape which had developed in some imported plant material, but had arrived by flight from overseas. — B.K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

A note on the differences between *Perizoma affinitata* Stephens and *Perizoma alchemillata* L. (Lep.: Geometridae)

In his book (1984), *Colour identification guide to moths of the British Isles*, Bernard Skinner gives the main difference between *P. affinitata* and *P.*